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# THE DIAL

VOL. XI. NOVEMBER, 1890. No. 127.

## CONTENTS.

### A LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE.

*Horatio N. Powers* . . . . . 181

### NOTABLE DISCUSSIONS OF RELIGION AND

PHILOSOPHY. *John Bascom* . . . . . 182

### NEW BOOKS OF TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE.

*Edward Gilpin Johnson* . . . . . 185

### THE NEW "INTERNATIONAL" WEBSTER.

*Melville B. Anderson* . . . . . 189

### THE CIVILIZATION OF THE RENAISSANCE.

*Henrietta Schuyler Gardiner* . . . . . 192

### BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS . . . . . 193

*Tiffany's Life of Dorothea Lynde Dix.*—*Morley's English Writers, Volume V., Wiclif and Chaucer.*—*Wilson's Life of Lord Clive.*—*Butler's Life of Sir Charles Napier.*—*Newhall's Manual of the Trees of Northeastern America.*—*Woodberry's Studies in Letters and Life.*—*Williams's Our Dictionaries, and other English Language Topics.*—*Mead's Our Mother Tongue.*—*Saint-Amand's Citizeness Bonaparte.*

### BOOKS OF THE MONTH . . . . . 196

### A LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE.\*

(Concluding Notice.)

[NOTE.—The following article is the last literary work of the Rev. Dr. H. N. Powers, whose recent death was recorded in the October DIAL. He was engaged on the article almost up to the time of his sudden death, a portion of the final draft having been found on his study table, together with unfinished sheets of the first draft, from which the article has been completed.—EDR.]

THE DIAL has more than once expressed its warm appreciation of the Library of American Literature; and now, on the appearance of the final volume, hearty congratulations are due the accomplished editors for the successful completion of their noble undertaking. Concerning the general character of the work our readers are already informed. Begun seven years ago, it has somewhat outgrown its original plan, while in its execution it has con-

stantly maintained its high standard of excellence. Not all the difficulties attending the compilation were foreseen at the beginning; and yet, whatever their nature or degrees, they have been met and overcome with a sure judgment and a scholarship that may be called unerring. This Library is a work of solid and sterling value. It contains—though in most instances comparatively brief space is given to individual examples—the cream of our literature. Considering the plan of the work, the place it was intended to fill, and the manner in which it has been executed, it is a masterpiece of editorial achievement, which, on the lines of its inception and intention, has fully vindicated its national value and importance.

The undertaking as a whole can only be fairly judged and appreciated by a consideration of the variety and quality of the material from which it has been drawn, the method of its handling, and the impartial spirit in which its selections have been made. Covering so wide a period and one so various in its characteristics, embracing qualities of such diverse degrees of excellence, it has required the finest discrimination, the sanest judgment, the most unbiased estimate of literary values, to do full justice, without prejudice and without partiality, to the manifold topics presented. And here the casual reader, without critical attention and a considerable acquaintance with American literature, is liable to undervalue the importance of the achievement, and to overlook its inherent difficulties. Opinions and tastes must of course differ. Here and there one might wish that some favorite poet were more liberally represented, that some other chapter had been substituted for the one chosen; he might think it would have been fairer, in some instances, had the space allotted been differently disposed of,—that this particular name has received more prominence than it deserved, and this other less. But when everything has been candidly and dispassionately considered—the great object of the undertaking, the variety of topics to be treated, the grounds on which the selections had to be made, with the many questions of what was most characteristic of the period and of most national interest—it may well excite unfeigned surprise that a work of such high superiority has been produced. We are not

\* A LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE, from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time. Compiled and edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson. In eleven volumes. New York: Charles L. Webster & Co. (W. E. Dibble & Co., Chicago.)

unfamiliar with the principles on which the editors directed their studies and selected the material for this compendium; and it is only just to acknowledge that they have more than fulfilled their promises made in the beginning, and have fully carried out their original scheme, though with a more generous expenditure of time and trouble than was at first contemplated. That the Library shows throughout a ripe judgment and an independent spirit, it is hardly necessary to affirm. The editors are singularly free from the bias that is generated by single studies and special proclivities. There is no evidence of narrow sympathies or ungrounded predilections. Good taste and catholic-mindedness characterize the work from beginning to end. Moreover, it has no smack of a series of books made to order, no indications of inconsiderate haste, or flavor of a financial venture, or suggestions of an aim at temporal popularity. It was compiled with a serious and profound apprehension of the value of such a work to the general reader and to the leaders and makers of public opinion, and of the just claims of American Literature.

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ing, amidst rather peculiar difficulties, that has distinguished the entire series. We have but a single criticism to make: We cannot but think that the omission of appropriate selections from the writings of the honored editors is an error that impairs the symmetry of the work. While we may admire the modesty that imposed this restraint, we cannot but regret it. Mr. Stedman's writings are a part of American literature, and readers have a right to expect to find examples of them in this Library. Some of Miss Hutchinson's fine poems also should have been included. Excepting this fault—which in one sense may be interpreted as a virtue—we have nothing but praise for the execution of the work, and congratulations for the editors and publishers, and for the public as well, on its successful completion.

HORATIO N. POWERS.

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BELIEF IN GOD. Its Origin, Nature, and Basis. By Jacob Gould Schurman. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

to the believing mind. Criticism, especially in those stages of it in which its conclusions are uncertain and conflicting, is something which we should be as much at liberty to decline as to accept. The book is content to illuminate the way of life which so many worshipful minds have followed and are following.

"The Nature and Method of Revelation" is critical, but critical for the most part along lines of defence. Dr. Fisher's liberal spirit and scholarly acquirements enable him to do excellent work in this direction. He soothes and comforts disturbed and timid believers in their faith, and leads all who are in any degree awakened to the variety and urgency of the attacks on accredited religious opinions to feel that there is no occasion for a stampede, that the various issues and interests involved will adjust themselves with no such wide change of base as many are predicting. The earlier portion of the volume was written for "The Century Magazine," with this very end of presentation and defence in view. It treats of the nature of revelation and of the early footing of Christianity. The later portion of the volume is made up of five essays, three on the Gospels and New Testament, two on the religious opinions expressed by Matthew Arnold and Professor Huxley. The book, as a whole, is fitted to sober criticism and to reduce the disintegration which attends upon it—not to avoid it or disparage it in itself. Such work is exceedingly serviceable in keeping quiet and trustful, yet progressive, the more intelligent forms of faith. To those already in the stream of conflicting opinions, the presentations of Dr. Fisher will often seem inadequate and unduly timid. He is slow in following out the conclusions plainly involved in his own premises. Many of his principles are of the most fundamental character, and can hardly be allowed their full force without a profound modification—by no means a subversion—of orthodox faith. The secret of all sober faith is expressed in the last sentence of his Introduction:

"The reality and profound significance of *personality* in God and man is a truth which is alike essential in all sound philosophy and in all earnest views of human life and duty."

The spirit of his method is contained in this statement:

"The fundamental reality is not the Bible, it is the Kingdom of God. This is not a notion. Rather is it a real historical fact, the grandest of all facts." (P. 15.)

An example of hesitancy in pursuing his own thought is seen in these assertions:

"But the religion itself is not defective, and, therefore, is not perfectible. Christianity is not to be put in the same category with the ethnic religions, which contain an admixture of error and are capable of being infinitely improved. The religion of the Gospel is absolute." (P. 21.)

"The religion of the Gospel means vastly more to-day than it was ever perceived to mean before. This enlarged meaning, however, is not annexed to it, or carried into it, but legitimately educed from it, through the ever-widening perceptions of Christian men whom the spirit of God illuminates." (P. 48.)

"That revealed religion is revealed, and is not the product of human genius, despite the gradual unfolding of that religion and the coherence of its parts, becomes increasingly evident the more thoroughly its characteristics are appreciated." (P. 50.)

Yet he does not hesitate to say of the Old Testament:

"There was lacking a full perception of the moral ideal." (P. 78.)

What can be meant by the perfection of a religion other than the perfection of the conception of those who entertain it? What is a revelation which after all is not revealed? We might as well speak of the perfection of science on the ground of the inner coherence of facts, as of the completeness of faith because of the relations of truths not yet disclosed. No man denies that truth will be coherent when it is disclosed. Every truth in every system stands linked with the entire body of discoverable truth. In these days, however, when progress with so many means a loss of footing and a rapid slide into the abyss of unbelief, we censure no man because he braces as he walks.

"God in His World" is a remarkable book. Only here and there, scattered widely, do we meet with that elevated, transcendental, spiritual type of mind disclosed in its pages. It is the product of profound and unhesitating belief, yet of the freest and most unconventional order. The thought often seems to border on mysticism, and to pass into wrapt vision, but it always shows a mind unusually awake to the inherent force and manifold implications of spiritual life. Difficulties, serious to many, and over which they fall, are mere pebbles in the path of the writer, deflecting his steps neither one way nor the other. Though some may pronounce this bold and unhesitating movement rhapsody, we think it the result of ready and real insight. To those who have any of the same free and assured faith, the book will be very stimulating. Plodding minds may as well let it alone. For ourselves, we prefer a treatment more closely

knit, and, in the higher sense of the word, more logical. The author is a man of wide reading, but of a very solitary habit of thought. Customs, in their conventional hold, are hardly recognizable by him. The volume is divided into three books, entitled "From the Beginning," "The Incarnation," "The Divine Human Fellowship." The comprehensive purpose is to declare the conditions of spiritual life widely sown in this our spiritual universe. There is as much difference between a piece of empiricism in philosophy and this book, as between a fish and a bird. Among birds, it has the eagle's strength. It is pervaded by a very subtle, delicate, and active poetic sense.

"Studies in Hegel's Philosophy of Religion" we have found quite as interesting as any one of the works already spoken of. It is readable and intelligible in itself, and so in a high degree for a book that treats of Hegel. It is not simply devout, but profoundly penetrated by a free, critical, coherent religious temper.

"The intellectual comprehension of the thought and reality of the unfolded universe—the manifestations of God as *Subject*, rather than of substance,—this is the 'vision splendid' of that philosophy which is thoroughly and essentially theological." (P. 131.)

"In fact, his whole Logic which contains his system or method in pure scientific form, seems to me to be but his explication of the nature and activities of God, immanent in the actuality and order of the world, and transcendent as its efficient and final Cause. . . . It is God, the Category of all categories—the Subject of all absolute predicates." (P. 16.)

"Egoism, individualism, is seen to be morbid selfishness and self-destruction. We are bound, on a voyage of discovery, to find ourselves in everything foreign. All things are ours." (P. 71.)

The author's estimate of current belief and unbelief is that—

"Much of modern skepticism is simply the inherently just and necessary demand of the human spirit to know the source and ground of such asserted infallibility for Bible and Church and Reason. It is more than willing to yield to rational authority. But it will not and it ought not to yield the blind obedience demanded to any authority." (P. 99.)

"Modern skepticism is very serious, and earnest, and wistful. Much of it needs but the true presentation of Christianity, as the life and light of the world, as the Divine love seeking and saving and civilizing and perfecting men—the most Divine, because the most human power on earth,—to joyfully accept and enter the social state in which the spirit of Christ reigns." (P. 102.)

The author belongs to the right wing in his rendering of Hegel.

"Indeed, any interpretation of Hegel which attributes to him the denial of personality and freedom to either God or man, is not worth the paper it is written on." (P. 133.)

"The physical universe is not all in the eye of the beholder, but is a real object of intelligence. Man is not identical with nature, nor God with man. But the reality which each possesses is that which, in spite of differences and distinctions, is of the same kith and kin in all. The resolute maintenance of this is a distinguishing mark of what we may term both English and American Hegelians. The personality of God and man, and the objective reality of the world, are strenuously maintained by them all." (P. 191.)

So definite is this assertion of distinct realities, that the chief difficulty we should find with it is that it leaves no sufficient ground for that peculiar and ultimate philosophy which we have associated with Hegel—the universe as the unfolding of a rational process. Hegel becomes rather a realist. A rational evolution can hardly be put back of and under real personality, since such a process is itself a product of personality, if we give personality the ordinary force of the word. Is it not the real difficulty of Hegelianism, that, while it involves some wonderfully penetrative pregnant and regnant ideas, it associates them with an impossible simplicity of philosophy, a verbal unity which finds no counterpart in experience? Hegel's philosophy thus becomes capable of readings widely apart from each other, according as its central idea is boldly asserted and fearlessly developed, or as the comprehensive principles associated with it are unfolded in a more guarded way. The philosophy is weak in its central connection. "The necessary dialectic of the idea" lacks cohesive propelling power as the unfolding force in all events. Some of the earlier chapters, as that on "The Vital Idea of Religion," we have found especially stimulating.

We have never experienced quite the pleasure in the perusal of the works of Professor Ladd which we have anticipated. He is liberal, able, and full of knowledge, and yet he only partially succeeds in presenting his topic. His sentences are not a few swift wheels under a car, but many rollers, without much motion, under a building just forsaking its old foundations. His erudition as often disturbs as aids his thoughts. His style, somewhat technical, demands constant attention, and one soon wearies of the movement, as too slow, too difficult, with too little reward. Thus, in the volume before us, the first chapter, of twenty-seven pages, is devoted to a definition of Philosophy. It is chiefly historical—not so directly and exclusively so as to be judged on this ground alone, and yet too much so for interesting and independent discussion. The title of



the book does not very obviously express its purpose and character. It is rather a general survey of philosophy by one who has given it extended study than a preparation for such study. It involves a scheme of philosophy and a determination of the chief dependencies of philosophy on other forms of knowledge. One will, therefore, hardly be interested in the work, or able fully to apprehend it, without much previous knowledge. The subjects considered, put in a condensed way, are the nature, sources, and relations of philosophy; its divisions, supported by a discussion of each division; and schools of philosophy. Professor Ladd inclines toward intuitionism, well sustained, however, by the results of empirical inquiry. He thus adopts, if we may judge, the safest, most penetrative, and most progressive form of thought. With this stream, all other streams from the right and left may readily unite.

Professor Schurman has achieved, in a brief period, manifest success in his educational work. The present volume, on "Belief in God," was the result of an invitation to give the Winkley Lectures at Andover Theological Seminary. The discussion of the topic chosen is exceedingly well managed in the order and method of presentation. The existence of God as immanent spirit is sustained as an explanatory hypothesis by the inner, constructive order of the universe, by the current movement which issues in definite purposes, and by the relation of the Infinite spirit, so assumed, to the spirit of man. The argument is made to rest firmly on both supports—the physical and the moral world. The lower facts are shown to require the interpretation of the higher ones, and the higher ones are given the firm footing of the lower ones. This presentation is made in the last three lectures, and the way is prepared for it by a lecture on agnosticism, by one on the logical basis and force of the argument, and by one on the historic growth of the conception of God. I have rarely met with a book whose general results seem so satisfactory, so to unite empirical inquiry and rational exposition. It goes far to indicate and promise a general movement of thought in converging lines toward one centre. The first lecture hardly does justice to the remaining lectures. The style of Professor Schurman, though not technical, is slightly touched with technicality—disadvantageously, as it seems to us.

JOHN BASCOM.

#### NEW BOOKS OF TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE.\*

A complete series of travellers' tales from pre-Homeric times to our own would perhaps present no bad parallel to the series of books read and enjoyed by most individuals from childhood to middle age. In both sets would be found a gradual tempering and final elimination of the marvellous. The early European was, in respect of the unexplored world, a credulous child beyond whose visible horizon lay a region of delightful possibilities for the adventurous, teeming with the true material for story-teller and poet, a land of enchantment thronged with creatures like those dream-born shapes that hover about the pillow of childhood. The men to whom Homer sang dreamed waking; they held the traveller in awe as one who had looked upon strange things—"Gorgons, and Hydras, and Chimeras dire"; or revered him as one blessed, perhaps, with a glimpse of foam-born Aphrodite, or of silver-footed Thetis stealing like a mist over the sea. These artless creeds of humanity's childhood are long outworn; anticipation has become but inverted recollection; and, nowadays, the Ancient Mariner who holds us "with his glittering eye" has a comparatively trite and commonplace tale to tell. The voyage of

\*THE PACIFIC COAST SCENIC TOUR: From Southern California to Alaska. By Henry T. Finck. Illustrated. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

RAMBLES IN THE BLACK FOREST. By Henry W. Wolff. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

A RUSSIAN JOURNEY. By Edna Dean Proctor. *Revised Edition*, with Prelude. Illustrated. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

EUROPEAN DAYS AND WAYS. By Alfred E. Lee. Illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

THE ROUND TRIP from the Hub to the Golden Gate. By Susie G. Clark. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

AN EASTERN TOUR AT HOME. By Joel Cook. Philadelphia: David McKay.

THE PINE TREE COAST. By Samuel Adams Drake. Illustrated. Boston: Estes & Lauriat.

FAR-WEST SKETCHES. By Jessie Benton Frémont. Boston: D. Lothrop Company.

THROUGH ABYSSINIA: An Envoy's Ride to the King of Zion. By F. Harrison Smith, R.N. Illustrated. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son.

MUNGO PARK AND THE NIGER. By Joseph Thompson. Illustrated. "Great Explorers and Explorations." New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

MEMOIRS OF THE MILITARY CAREER OF JOHN SHIPP, late Lieutenant in His Majesty's 87th Regiment. Written by himself. With an Introduction by H. Manners Chichester. Illustrated. "Adventure Series." New York: Macmillan & Co.

THE ADVENTURES OF THOMAS FELLOW, of Penryn, Mariner: Three-and-Twenty Years in Captivity among the Moors. Written by Himself, and Edited, with an Introduction, by Dr. Robert Brown. Illustrated. "Adventure Series." New York: Macmillan & Co.

Odysseus in his hollow ship is, when viewed in the calm spirit of modern criticism, a trifling affair compared with recent performances; and erratic elderly gentlemen and journalistic young ladies of our day excite no great comment—not half so much, we should say, as they would like—by girdling the globe in a minute fraction of the time spent by the crafty Ithacan in crossing the Ægean. The prime quality required of writers of "Travels" in ancient times seems to have been invention—a requirement which placed them upon a most respectable literary footing, for, if we may believe Mr. Pope, "It is the invention that, in different degrees, distinguishes all great geniuses." But the traveller has long been deprived of his traditional weapon, the long bow; though, if one may judge from the goodly pile of "Books of Travel and Adventure" now before us, his popularity has not been greatly lessened thereby.

The freshness, literary merit, and compact thoroughness of Mr. Henry T. Finck's "Pacific Coast Scenic Tour" entitle it, we think, to the first place on our list. In this volume the author aims to give a general and impartial view of the whole Pacific Coast from San Diego to Sitka, including the hitherto comparatively neglected states of Oregon and Washington. A great many books have been written about this region, and there has been a vast expenditure of superlatives and exclamation points in the endeavor to fitly exhibit its scenic features—to which it is undoubtedly difficult to do justice. This volume of Mr. Finck's seems to us to surpass easily the best of its predecessors in the amount and quality of the information it supplies, and in the character of its descriptions, some of which fairly approach in graphic force the effects attainable through the medium of color and canvas. The sunny beauties of Southern California, and the sublime features of the region to the north—Lake Tahoe, Mount Shasta, the Columbia River, the Snow Peaks of Washington, the giant glaciers of Alaska, the Yellowstone, the Grand Cañon of the Arkansas, "absolutely unique and without a rival anywhere,"—are pictured with a taste and discrimination that will appeal to the cultured reader. The volume teems with quotable matter, but we must confine ourselves to a few lines descriptive of Lake Tahoe:

"Here are not only mountain peaks and pine-wooded shores reflected in the water, but the whole sky, with its sunset clouds, more brilliantly colored and more fan-

tastically shaped than anywhere else in the world, is mirrored below. The earth no longer seems a hemisphere, but a perfect symmetrical globe with the spectator in the centre, floating on the invisible water like a disembodied spirit."

Our author has not confined his observations to the natural features of the Coast, but gives his impressions of the towns and cities as well. We advise those of our readers who cannot see the glories of this wonderful Pacific Coast region through their own eyes, to see them through Mr. Finck's—which are certainly a good deal better than the most of us can boast of. The illustrations are an attractive feature of the volume, and are of quite unusual merit.

In the Introduction to his charming book, "Rambles in the Black Forest," Mr. W. H. Wolff takes his fellow Englishmen to task for neglecting, in their summer tours, the picturesque spot he describes, and migrating conventionally to "those recognized Alpine pastures to which accepted bell-wethers still lead them." The Black Forest region he pictures as a land of giant firs and of shaggy hills studded with jutting crags of granite and porphyry, threaded by a profusion of limpid winding streams, interspersed with bright meadows, trim gardens, and picturesque villages—the home of a gayly-clad, kindly-mannered folk who have not yet learned to regard the Herr Engländer as an affluent Ishmaelite to be smitten, pecuniarily, hip and thigh; in short, the Forest is an Eden where nature-loving Englishmen may roam for weeks in blissful forgetfulness of Pears' Soap, Beecham's Pills, the Monkey Brand, and the "euphony of Cockney accents." Our author's reflections upon the desirability of straying occasionally from the beaten paths of European travel are, in the main, just enough; and we commend his book to the next outgoing batch of American tourists—especially of that class of them whose esoteric pleasures are dulled by the fact that "everybody travels nowadays," and who are wont to greet their countrymen abroad with a Gorgon-stare that says plainly enough, "What the deuce are *you* doing here?" Mr. Wolff has made a special study of the various districts of the Black Forest, and of the customs and industries of its inhabitants; and his work, besides being packed with information, possesses literary qualities that lift it out of the usual class of "books of travel."

A new and enlarged edition of Edna Dean Proctor's "A Russian Journey" is welcome,

as the work is already favorably known to many readers. The book is one that the reviewer can extol cheerfully and with a good conscience, feeling that his judgment is not likely to be questioned. "A Russian Journey" commends itself no less by its refined literary style than by the truth and vigor of its descriptions—descriptions whose accuracy is not, we should say, impaired by the warm glow of sympathy and poetic feeling with which they are tinged. The work is not, of course, put forth as an authoritative treatise on Russian polity and ethnology. The author makes no pretence to having penetrated deeply into the life of the people, and touches only casually upon the graver topics discussed by Mr. Kennan and other recent travellers. The journey of which the volume is a record was made some twenty years ago. The author visited St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan, and intermediate points, and then turned southward into the Cossack country and the Crimea, noting intelligently the general outward features of town and country, and the peculiarities of the people of the different districts. The volume is acceptably illustrated, and is enclosed in a decorative cover emblematic of the country visited.

In his "European Days and Ways," Mr. Alfred E. Lee discourses pleasantly and intelligently of the "sights" and social features of Germany, Holland, Austria, Italy, and Spain; and as his observations are the result of an extended residence abroad, they are well worth the attention of the prospective tourists. Mr. Lee devotes a portion of his book to the consideration of political questions, two chapters being given to an account of the evolution of the German Empire. The volume is a handsome one, and deserves fuller treatment than can be accorded it here. The illustrations are numerous and good.

Susie G. Clark's booklet narrating the incidents of her "Round Trip from the Hub to the Golden Gate" seems to us better worth reading than some more pretentious works of its kind that we could mention. Besides possessing a very good style, the author takes serious account of what she sees, and credits her readers with a rational desire for information; hence her descriptions are not belittled with that phase of "American humor" which takes the form of treating respectable things with flippant irreverence. The California notes are fresh and informing, a chapter on the Lick Observatory being especially good.

The title of Mr. Joel Cook's book, "An Eastern Tour," leads one to put the author down as an Oriental traveller; and imagination at once pictures him sitting cross-legged upon a carpet, puffing a hookah, quaffing snow-cooled sherbet or wine of Shiraz, and trying to make his harem-owning entertainer believe he is enjoying himself. A glance at the interior of the volume, however, shows that the extreme point of the "Orient" reached by Mr. Cook was Eastport, Maine. His book is, in fact, a series of articles, which are reprinted from the Philadelphia "Public Ledger," minutely descriptive of various points of interest in the Eastern States. The fund of information—historical, traditional, and anecdotal,—embodied in these papers is really surprising; and it is imparted in an agreeable way.

Mr. Samuel Adams Drake's "The Pine Tree Coast" is a handsome volume illustrative of the coast of Maine, from Kittery to Eastport—a stretch of twenty-four hundred miles. The amount and variety of information, local and personal, collected here, implies an appalling development of the collector's bump of inquisitiveness; and we caution people who have a hole in their coats to "tent it" before Mr. Drake comes "among" them with his note-book. Every nook and corner of the Maine coast seems to have been explored and its special tradition and gossip ferreted out. The value of the work is enhanced by 379 illustrations—a number of them full-page photo-etchings.

We have read with considerable pleasure a little volume of "Far-West Sketches" by Mrs. Jessie Benton Frémont. Mrs. Frémont has drawn her material from certain early experiences in California—some of them were Californian enough, in all conscience. The author writes gracefully and unconventionally, and her descriptive powers are exemplified by two or three character sketches worthy of the pencil of Bret Harte himself. Indeed, we think we are pretty safe in saying that Mrs. Frémont's people resemble their Californian prototypes more closely than Mr. Harte's charming but rather melodramatic worthies resemble theirs.

In his "Through Abyssinia," Mr. F. Harrison Smith gives a lively and rather instructive account of a peculiar mission on which he was sent in 1885. In 1883, a treaty was entered into by Great Britain and Abyssinia by which the latter power bound itself to allow the release of the Egyptian garrisons of cer-

tain places within its territory. King John of Abyssinia having, in 1885, unexpectedly falsified the old saying about the faith of princes, by fulfilling his side of the bargain, it was agreed by the British Government that such phenomenal honesty should not go unrewarded. It was accordingly decided to present King John, his son, and his chief general, with swords of honor as presents from Her Majesty the Queen, and Mr. F. Harrison Smith was selected as envoy. The story of his journey is an interesting one and is well told.

The latest volume in the "Great Explorers and Explorations" series is a timely one. It is a well-written account, by Mr. Joseph Thompson, of the Scotch traveller Mungo Park, and his two expeditions (1794-1805) into the Soudan. Interest in the work of African exploration has been particularly strong of late; and without some knowledge of what has been done in this field in times past one can but imperfectly comprehend the results of present activity. The chief object of Mungo Park's expeditions was to ascertain the origin, course, and termination of the Niger. To find the first allusion to this once mysterious stream—believed by the ancients to be the Nile itself—we must go back to the dawn of history. Phœnicia, Greece, Carthage, and Rome, each had its bold navigators and travellers; and even in those early days—twenty or more centuries ago—Africa was the goal of adventurous spirits who sought, by penetrating into unknown wilds, to win the renown due to deeds of high enterprise. In the pages of Herodotus, Strabo, Pliny, and Ptolemy, we find allusions to the fertile negro-land to the south of the desert zone, and of the mighty river running through it; and from the mass of fable and of Arabian Night marvels, with which these ancient tales of "far Cathay" are clouded, we can extract the central fact that many centuries before the Christian era the Central or Western Soudan of our day was reached and partially explored. For many centuries little was added to the knowledge gained by the early classical writers. The power of Carthage yielded to that of Rome; the African Empire was established, but the advancing tide of Roman aggression was stayed to the southward by the natural barrier of Sahara, and the great desert remained uncrossed. In the seventh century a new power rose in the East, and the missionaries of Islam, bursting the boundaries of their native country,

swept like the Simoon over Roman Africa, overwhelming its decaying Paganism and corrupting wrangling Christianity alike in their course, and turned finally to the North and South in quest of new fields to conquer for God and His prophet. The wide Sahara, impassable to Carthaginian and Roman, formed no obstacle to the desert-born race; and within less than a century after the commencement of the Mohammedan era the Arabs had carried the crescent to the banks of the Niger, and established their schools and mosques in the negro kingdoms to the west of Timbuktu. The negro tribes, formerly warring and disunited, were combined, for a time, under the spell of Arabic religion and Arabic civilization, into an empire headed by a powerful king. A flourishing trade grew up with their neighbors to the north of the desert, and caravans of Egypt, Tripoli, and Morocco, met at Walata and Timbuktu to barter the products of Moorish art and handicraft for the gold-dust, slaves, and ivory of the Soudanese. Thus was formed, in the heart of Africa, the Empire of Prester John—a mystic realm whose fabulous wealth proved a loadstone to adventurous Englishmen of later times. To them, as to the Portuguese somewhat earlier, Timbuktu and the Niger were words to conjure with. The Niger they pictured as a new Pactolus whose sands were gold-dust; while Timbuktu floated in their imaginations as an Aladdin-city, gold-paved and gold-roofed, crowned with jewelled domes and minarets, a resort of caravans laden with the wealth of the Orient. It was thought that the Senegal and the Gambia were the mouths of the Niger, and that to ascend either would be to reach the kingdom and partake of the wealth of Prester John. Science and geographical research have robbed the world of many a pleasing illusion. Keats lamented that the beauty of the rainbow had departed with its mystery; and Timbuktu and the Niger have shared the fate of the Homeric lands. The latter part of the eighteenth century marks the commencement of the modern period of African exploration—the period of disinterested scientific research; and to the African Association belongs the honor of inaugurating it. It was under the auspices of this society that Mungo Park made his first expedition to the Niger. The publishers are happy in their selection of Mr. Joseph Thompson as the author of the present work. He tells the dramatic story of Park's career with clearness and force, dwelling sympathetically upon the



great explorer's matchless courage and tenacity of purpose, yet not glossing over the fact that in point of executive ability and foresight he was fatally deficient. The volume is supplied with a number of fairly good maps and illustrations.

The third volume in Messrs. Macmillan's "Adventure Series" recounts "The Military Career of John Shipp," a British soldier who by dint of personal merit twice won a commission from the ranks before he was thirty years old—an achievement pronounced by his editor, H. Manners Chichester, unique in the annals of the British army. Shipp saw plenty of active service under Lord Lake in India (1804–1821), and his narrative presents an excellent picture of the everyday life of the English soldier at that period. The style of the memoir is surprisingly good, considering the writer's limited educational opportunities. A number of quaint cuts are furnished, one of them representing Shipp himself pointing an unserviceable-looking sabre at a fortress which he seems to be storming single-handed.

Another volume in the same series, "The Adventures of Thomas Pellow," takes us back to the days of the Barbary corsairs, when the merchant vessels of Christendom, coursing between the Pillars of Hercules, ran a gruesome risk of being overhauled by the fleet of Morocco cruisers and towed as prize into the dens of Moslem piracy infesting the African coast. Happily, these nests of infamy have long since fallen into decay, or been pounded into submission by the cannon of the Nazarenos. In the year 1715, Thomas Pellow, then eleven years of age, set sail on a voyage from Falmouth to Genoa. When off Cape Finisterre, the vessel was surprised and captured by two Saltee rovers, and Pellow, with his companions, was conveyed into the interior to become the slave of the Emperor Muley Ismaïl. His situation may be inferred from the picture he draws of his master: "He was of so fickle and cruel a nature that none could be even for one hour secure of life." This tyrant kept several dextrous executioners at his elbow, to whom his sanguinary orders were conveyed by signs—"as, for instance, when he would have any person's head cut off, by drawing or shrinking his own as close as he could to his shoulders, and then with a very quick or sudden motion extending it; and when he would have any one strangled, by the quick turn of his arm-wrist, his eyes being fixed on the victims." During the early part of his

captivity, Pellow suffered every manner of indignity and hardship; but later, having abjured Christianity and "turned Moor," he fared better, and entered the Moorish army, serving under Muley Ismaïl, Muley Abdalmalek, and Muley Abdallah, and was an eyewitness of most of the sanguinary episodes of their reigns. Pellow's account of his twenty-three year's captivity and final escape is very interesting, and presents a reasonably accurate picture of Moorish manners at that period. The volume is illustrated, and the editor, Dr. Robert Brown, has prefaced it with an instructive account of the origin, growth, and suppression of Barbary piracy.

EDWARD GILPIN JOHNSON.

#### THE NEW "INTERNATIONAL" WEBSTER.\*

Before me stand two of the biggest books in the world: Webster's "American Dictionary," bearing the date 1887, and Webster's "International Dictionary" of the year 1890. The main body of the former is the edition of 1864, typographically unchanged; the editions of 1879 and 1884 are swollen by supplements of one kind and another, but beyond this they were in no sense revised. The appendix of 1879, containing a large number of new words and definitions, though welcome to many, was probably of little utility to the great mass of those who have had occasion to consult this popular oracle. To pause in the midst of an interesting story or essay or article to look up a word is undoubtedly a praiseworthy act involving the exercise of no small amount of energy. Praiseworthy as this act may be, the solitary reader can look for no other praise than that of his own literary conscience, and the voice of the literary conscience is too often very still and small. When the reader has roused himself to consult the dictionary and has failed to find what he wants in the body of the work, the literary conscience is rarely despot enough to impel him to plunge into a maze of appendixes, whence he is too likely to emerge uninformed and discouraged. There are a thousand ways of appeasing conscience in such a case. The attention may be dis-

\* WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. Being the Authentic Edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Comprising the Issues of 1864, 1879, and 1884, now thoroughly Revised and Enlarged under the Supervision of Noah Porter, D.D., LL.D., of Yale University. With a Voluminous Appendix. Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam & Co.

tracted from the author's train of thought; the hour for reading may slip by; the quest for the word may prove bootless; and if we read on, the meaning may dawn upon us, or the writer may explain it himself. Nothing short of a dispute about the meaning of a word would ever arouse an unprofessional or unscholarly reader to such a heroic expenditure of patience and fortitude as is involved in running down a shade of meaning in two or three different parts of this vast work, when the odds are perhaps against his finding it at all.

This is by no means the sole reason why a revision of Webster was called for. It seems not improbable that the past quarter-century has added a larger number of words to the English language than any preceding century since Norman French finally became blended with Old English to form the language of Wiclif and Chaucer. The thousands of words and meanings which the progress of modern society, with its retinue of arts and inventions and sciences, has added to our tongue since the Civil War, were but crudely and partially registered in the Supplement of 1879. Had the material forming that Supplement been merged in the body of the work, the dictionary would still have remained very imperfect. The wider resources and the exacter methods of philological investigation had shown the inadequacy of much of the etymological part, and yet this was probably the most scientific part of the entire work. The unscientific method employed in the definitions of words was far more painfully evident. The book swarmed with grotesque, inaccurate, and useless cuts; and the typography, if never quite illegible, was coming to be, in places, a severe trial to the eye.

Recognizing these and other facts, the publishers undertook, some ten years ago, the preparation of a dictionary which should answer to the present popular need. The result is before us. In the words of the editor-in-chief,—"The revision now given to the public is the fruit of over ten years of labor by a large editorial staff, in which publishers and editors have spared neither expense nor pains to produce a comprehensive, accurate, and symmetrical work." The publishers make the following extraordinary statements:

"The staff of paid editorial laborers has numbered not less than one hundred persons. Besides these, a large number of interested scholars have freely contributed in important ways to its completeness and value. Within the ten years that the work has been in progress, and

before the first copy was printed, more than three hundred thousand dollars was expended in editing, illustrating, type-setting, and electrotyping."

There is no reason to doubt these statements. Careful and detailed examination of many different parts of the book has convinced me that it is entirely re-written from cover to cover. Of course much of the old material, representing the stable portion of our word-lore, remains; but this old matter has been everywhere remoulded, condensed, and blended with new. How skilfully this has been done could only be shown by parallel quotations for which THE DIAL has no room. Let anyone take, for example, the word *nice*, and compare its treatment in the "Unabridged" and in the "International." He will find that the eight heads under which the meanings were grouped have been reduced to seven, that these heads have been entirely rearranged so that the last is first and the first last, that the etymology is treated more instructively in half the space, and that the synonymy is reduced, to the great relief of the reader, from seventeen lines to three. This system of condensation has been carried out consistently throughout the work, so that very much more information is given within the same space. Probably no one who has been accustomed to use the old dictionary, and has not compared it with the new, can imagine how large an amount of matter the older work contained which we can dispense with and never miss it.

By means of these arts of condensation and judicious omission, the work has been kept within the bounds of a single volume. The two books, as they stand side by side, show no great disparity. The "International" is a half-inch taller than the "Unabridged," and a trifle stouter. But no physiognomist could divine, from the difference in outward configuration and bulk, the immense disparity within. The edition of 1887 contains 2012 pages; the present edition contains 2118 somewhat larger pages. My scrutiny of the work inclines me to believe that every page of the revised work contains incomparably more information than the corresponding page of the earlier work, and that this information is more scientifically arranged, more perspicuously worded, and far freer from intermixture of irrelevant, erroneous, or trivial matter.

I have but little space left for more specific statements and illustrations. I have mentioned the rearrangement of the definitions under the word *nice*. This is simply one illustration out

of thousands. The principle of this rearrangement is to exhibit the historic filiation of the various significations which a word may bear. The reader is enabled to think back with the universal mind across centuries and millenaries, and to trace the subtle associations of thought by which words have leaped from one meaning to another. So also, in the etymologies, he is enabled to follow the metamorphoses which words have undergone as to their outward form. The etymologies are rendered more perspicuous by being purged of the superfluous citations made by Dr. Mahn of parallel forms in the various modern languages. Those forms only are here cited which are in the direct line of descent, or which throw some useful light upon the laws by which that descent has been determined. The etymologies are further vastly improved by the citation of cognate forms and congeners, which would otherwise be overlooked. This is an entirely new feature, and a most useful one. Thus, under *induce*, reference is made to *duke* and *induct*; under *scheme*, to *epoch*, *hectic*, and *school*; under *science*, to *conscience*, *conscious*, and *nice*.

As might be expected, there is a marked improvement in the treatment of certain classes of words which are just now enormously in vogue,—such as *science*, *Renaissance*, *society* and its congeners *social*, *socialism*, etc., *induction*, *electric*, *magnet* and its derivatives, *development*, *hypnotism*. The words *Darwinism*, *solidary*, and *mugwump*, may serve as samples of as many classes of new words not found in the former editions and supplement. But the great majority of new words here found are special terms in science and specific names of animals and plants. To what an extent new words appear may be illustrated by the fact that on the first two pages under the letter L no less than forty-three words are found which had been recorded in no previous edition. At this rate the "International" would contain upwards of thirty-six thousand more words than the "Unabridged" dictionary in its best estate.

The "Dictionary of Noted Names in Fiction" furnishes a striking example of the methods by which a much larger amount of pertinent information has been crowded into a smaller number of pages. In the edition of 1884, this "dictionary" fills fifty-two pages; in the present edition it fills but thirty. Yet by the omission of the frequent long quotations and other illustrative matter in the original work, room is made for the insertion of a large num-

ber of additional "noted names." Of course this changes the entire character of this "dictionary"; and the change is, I think, in the interest of the greatest number of those who may have occasion to look up such "noted names." Under the letter N, for example, there are here forty-seven articles; in the original there are but thirty-five. Of the thirty-five, three have been omitted; so that in all, fifteen new articles have been added. This work has been executed judiciously and accurately.

The other well-known supplements of the later editions of Webster have been retained and improved. Even the list of words and phrases from foreign languages has been carefully revised. In view of the great popularity of the study of the German language and of the frequent Germanisms used by such widely-read authors as Carlyle and one or two others, one looks for a great increase in the number of words and phrases quoted from the German. I may have overlooked some, but in the edition of 1884 I find but one: *ich dien*. In the present edition I find four more: *auf wiedersehen*, *Ewigkeit*, *Sturm und Drang*, *Zeitgeist*. One looks in vain for *epochemachend*, *tonangebend*, and others; nor is the word *epoch-making* to be found among the English words,—though it is very properly included in the Century Dictionary. Another unaccountable omission is that of the Latin word *redivivus*, which is far more frequently used in English than most of the Latin words in this list.

Undoubtedly, the quotations cited to illustrate the definitions form the weakest point of this dictionary,—unless, indeed, that weakest point be the utter omission of a quotation, and the mere citation of an author's name in support of a sense in which he is supposed by the editor to have used the word in question. I give the briefest example I can find. The word *poser* is defined as follows:

"One who, or that which, puzzles; a difficult or inexplicable question or fact. Bacon."

Here Bacon's name is cited for the three meanings, apparently, which are attributed to the word. Now in his essay "Of Studies," Bacon does perhaps use the word in one of these senses, but with a much more specific reference than is here indicated: in the sense, namely, of an *examiner*—one who poses, or apposes, questions. The word is still so used at the schools of Eton and Winchester. This fact the dictionary should state; or if space does not permit this, it should at least indicate

where in Bacon's works the word is to be found; or, at the very least, in which of the senses named he uses the word. As a matter of fact, his use of the word does not exactly correspond to any of these meanings, unless, indeed, an examiner be necessarily "one who puzzles." I lay stress upon this, because it is an illustration of a radical defect which this dictionary shares with Worcester's, and with many others. Such mere citation of an author's name is likely to be misleading, if it be not entirely meaningless.

There are traces of an attempt to verify the illustrative quotations; but as no clue has ever been given to them, this attempt can hardly have been successful, except in isolated cases where the quotations have turned up in the course of reading for other purposes. Under "*school*, v. t., 2," two very important corrections are made in the quotation from Dryden, which was, like many others, sadly garbled in previous editions. Under the adjective *facete*, the following quotation is made from "Prof. Wilson":

"'How to interpose' with a small, smart remark, sentiment *facete*, or unctuous anecdote."

In the edition of 1884, this reads very differently:

"Good manners must have induced them, now and then, 'here to interpose,' with a small, smart remark, etc."

In this case, unless the original quotation is almost incredibly garbled, the fault would seem to lie at the door of the present editorship. A very different and less pardonable error of the present editor was the insertion of the bit of mediæval scholasticism which does duty as the first quotation under the word *science*, where it is grotesquely out of place.

I forbear further strictures. Barring an occasional broken letter, the book is beautifully and correctly printed. Most of the ugly old cuts have been replaced by others more modern and more accurate. As a whole, the book is a most welcome and an invaluable addition to our stock of books of reference. Never before has such a mass of accurate information been placed between two covers. Even those who possess the more sumptuous and more exhaustive Century Dictionary will find Webster's "International" almost indispensable for ready reference,—and, in their hours of indolence, for unready reference also.

MELVILLE B. ANDERSON.

#### THE CIVILIZATION OF THE RENAISSANCE.\*

The appearance of a translation of Dr. Burekhardt's already well-known work is another token of the unflagging interest taken in that stirring epoch when the intelligence of humanity awoke to conscious freedom and energy. To English readers, the ground might seem to have been covered by Symonds's exhaustive analysis; but the fine feeling and thorough scholarship of Dr. Burekhardt's treatise could not well have been spared, particularly as the condensed form in which he presents his materials would prove no objection to the special student of the period. The Italian civilization of the fourteenth century has a peculiar significance in its relations to that mighty impulse which, beginning with the Renaissance, is to-day still active and unspent; but our author indulges in no generalizations leading us to regard this phase of society as merely the point of contact between the modern spirit and the fresh vigor of antiquity. Italy was the home of the restored humanities, and he confines himself to pointing out the conditions under which alone that spontaneous outburst could have taken place.

First comes the state as a "work of art," the scientific result of deliberation and reflection, where, amid the crowd of tyrants and despots, the modern political spirit is noticed for the first time, gradually developing the great constitutional principle of the equality of man and the rights of the individual. Man, who has known himself hitherto as a member of a race, a people, or a family, becomes a conscious personal force, a force which, by favoring natural causes, reaches its highest point in a manifestation peculiar to Italy alone,—the flower and crown of humanity, *l'uomo universale*, the "all-sided man."

Having reached this point in his narrative, Dr. Burekhardt proceeds to show us the influence of classic literature on the national mind, insisting that it was not alone the revival of antiquity which revolutionized the world, but its union with the genius of the Italian people. When civic life had become a possibility, a condition of society arose in which the need of culture was felt, and in which existed the leisure and means to obtain it. The sympathies of all classes of Italians would turn naturally to antiquity, and in its civilization they found a guide to those two great revelations immortal-

\* THE CIVILIZATION OF THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY. By Jacob Burekhardt. Authorized Translation by S. G. C. Middlemore. New York: Macmillan & Co.



ized by Michelet as the Discovery of the World and the Discovery of Man.

The passionate enthusiasm of this search for the remains of antiquity, not only literary but artistic, is dwelt upon at some length, as representing how the spirit of the people was colored by that influence. When we have thus been shown the "individual," and the *milieu* in which he was trained, we arrive at the point where his spirit burst its bonds and attained self-conscious freedom, with the power to judge and the impulse to explore, to create, to represent. We do not find here the fire which inspires us in the English author who has so vividly described this period, but instead general observations, patient and painstaking, of the results achieved by the Italians in their explorations of the physical world and in the world of intellect. Contemplating the figure of "the great Genoese," we are ready to admit the assertion that they are preëminently the nation of discoverers, "for," says Dr. Burekhardt, "the true discoverer is not the man who first chances to stumble upon anything, but the man who first finds what he sought." Be this as it may, the passion for travel and adventure, which had such far-reaching results, was first aroused in Italy. In the natural sciences he also claims for her the highest place, with Paolo Toscanelli, Luca Paccioli, and Lionardo da Vinci, of whom even Copernicus confessed himself a pupil; but this vast subject is touched upon but lightly.

The discovery of the intellectual side of man was the second great achievement of the Renaissance. Considering that this result is studied best in the effort of the human mind to observe and describe itself, Dr. Burekhardt gives us an analysis of the poetry of the fourteenth century, and attempts to discover why Italy, standing in the front rank of every other department of literature, science, and art, should occupy so low a place in tragedy. The chapters on religion and morality close the investigation, and are of especial interest. Our author deprecates any attempt to judge the attitude of this great people by any other race, alleging the influence of antiquity as unfavorable to the attainment of the Christian ideal of holiness, and finding excuse for those powerful natures of the Renaissance who, through principle, "repented of nothing."

In view of the close connection between modern life and thought and the period described by Dr. Burekhardt, the reviewer finds it difficult to refrain from considerations the expres-

sion of which might seem commonplace. This book will assist the reader to realize to what a degree our destiny has been shaped by the spirit of the Renaissance. We are still in mid-current of the stream which took its rise in this great water-shed between the antique world and the modern.

HENRIETTA SCHUYLER GARDINER.

#### BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

FRANCIS TIFFANY'S "Life of Dorothea Lynde Dix" (Houghton) belongs among biographies of the best class. It is more than a mere narrative of the acts, habits, and events in the life of one individual; it deals with the conditions, historical, political, social—with the "environment," according to the favorite word of the day—in which the chief character finds herself, and then proceeds to show the influence of personality on that environment. The story of Dorothea Dix is the story of a woman who dedicated herself, with the self-sacrifice of a martyr and the religious fervor of a saint, to a life-work in behalf of the insane. Before entering upon this narrative in detail, the author devotes a chapter to the early theories of insanity, and shows how it was formerly regarded, not as a fury of the inflamed and congested body acting on the mind, but as a fury of the mind, turning men and women into tigers and jackals. Iron cages, chains, clubs, starvation, were regarded as the only fit instrumentalities for dealing with these wild beasts; the whole realm of the subtle relations between mind and body were as yet a *terra incognita*; the insane were inevitably looked upon with a strange and cruel blending of repulsion, personal fear, and despair of any methods but those of physical coercion. Even so late as the beginning of the present century, there were in the whole United States but four insane asylums, and of these only one had been entirely built by a state government. In France and England began the new epoch in the history of the treatment of insanity. It implied an absolute reversal of all previous conceptions; the substitution, in the place of restraint and force, of the largest possible degree of liberty; the abandonment of the whole previous idea of brute subjection for that of the emancipation of reason and the enhancement of the sense of personal responsibility. Later, a few men of consecrated intelligence and humanity in this country enlisted under the new banner, and established institutions where the insane might see they were regarded as *men* and *brethren*. None the less, one indispensable spiritual power was still lacking. It was that of a fervid apostle of the new creed—of one animated with the requisite inspiration and fire to lead a crusade against the almost universal ignorance, superstition, and apathy which still reigned over nearly the whole of the States of the Union. How this imperative demand was an-

swered in the person of Dorothea Dix, what a marvellous series of campaigns of pure humanity were won by this woman single-handed, what enormous structures and park-like grounds were made to start out of the earth by the wand of her moral genius, what victories were hers over the stupidity, selfishness, indifference, and heartlessness of legislatures, state and national, at home and abroad, form the story of this very interesting volume. In closing it, we feel that the words written at her death three years ago, by a celebrated physician of this country to a professional brother in England, are not extravagant: "Thus has died and been laid to rest, in the most quiet, unostentatious way, the most useful and distinguished woman America has yet produced."

THOSE pessimists who deem the present the worst of all eras hitherto, and whose millennium will be the worst of all possible eras, must at least admit this to be an age of longevity in men of thought and men of action. In the cases of some who have recently passed away, like Victor Hugo, Professor Ranke, and Cardinal Newman, as well as in the cases of many who are still active and productive at eighty and upwards, the spectacle has something of the excitement of a race. Taking courage from such stout defiers of time as Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Holmes and Lord Tennyson, the men of the generation of Mr. Lowell and Professor Henry Morley may still look forward to a long autumnal period wherein to harvest the fruitage of their prime. Professor Morley published, a generation ago, a history of English literature to the time of Chaucer and beyond. This work, which bore the somewhat equivocal title of "English Writers," was and is the most complete treatment of the subject. In November, 1887, THE DIAL gave an extended notice of the first volume of a new and thoroughly re-written edition of this great work, and from time to time we have recorded the appearance of succeeding volumes. We now take great pleasure in welcoming the fifth volume, treating almost exclusively of Wiclif and Chaucer, and almost completing the re-issue of the earlier work. This volume is, perhaps, by virtue of its subject, the most interesting of all so far. In character and style it differs so little from the previous volumes that we forbear repeating the criticisms and commendations which this meritorious work has so often received in these columns. No student of Chaucer can afford to be without the present volume. It may be incidentally mentioned that the author assumes, conjecturally, that Chaucer was born in the year 1332, instead of about the year 1340, as most authorities now believe; and that no mention is made of the supposed fact that Chaucer was ransomed by Edward III. from French captivity for £16. At page 103, the statement is made that John of Gaunt was the third son of Edward III. The fact is that he was the fourth son. Despite some shortcomings and some oddities which

one can readily forgive, this volume forms the most exhaustive and useful account of Chaucer and his work now accessible to the English reader. Every student of our literature will join us in the hearty wish that the veteran author may be spared to give us many more volumes of "English Writers." The publishers, Cassell & Co., issue the work in an attractive and handy form.

THE "English Men of Action" series (Macmillan) keeps up its reputation admirably in its two latest volumes—"Clive," by Sir Charles Wilson, and "Sir Charles Napier," by Sir William Butler. These lives of soldiers by veteran campaigners draw us to them by the very fact that the subject is in the hands of an expert; and when by perusal one discovers that the expert author is not a mere technical machine and martinet, but a man first and foremost, with large human sympathies and a keen insight into human nature and institutions as well as into strategical and tactical lore, he rejoices in the happy selection of the biographer. Both these English colonels have already won laurels for gallantry in the field, and Colonel Butler is already known to the reader of the "Men of Action" by his fascinating sketch of Gordon. His pen has not lost its cunning as it takes up this new theme; and well might the life of the noble Napier arouse the enthusiasm of this liberal-minded soldier of our own day. As we follow, in these pages, the career of their hero, through the Peninsula and the war in Scinde to the command-in-chief in India, or wait with him in the long intervals of service "out of harness" for an unappreciative war bureau, we catch the spirit of the true-hearted Napier, intolerant of wrong and meanness of every kind. But the fiery glow of indignation which illuminates the narrative tells us also that England still has in command of her regiments men who rejoice as they see "the great circle of human sympathy growing wider with every hour, and some new tribe among the toiling outcasts of men taken within its long-closed limits"—"a Greater Britain and a larger Ireland growing beyond the seas, fulfilling the work of liberty and progress." Large and generous thoughts, but unwonted from a colonel of Her Majesty's forces! Colonel Wilson's book is a companion piece to Lyall's "Hastings." These two little volumes redeem the characters of these two great pro-consuls. Wilson says truly: "Among the many illustrious men India has produced, none is greater than the first of her soldier-statesmen, whose successful career marks an era in the history of England and of the world: great in council, great in war, great in his exploits which were many, and great in his faults which were few."

MR. CHARLES T. NEWHALL is the author of a manual of "The Trees of Northeastern America" (Putnam), prepared for the non-botanical reader. His object is to afford simple means of identification for all the native species of Canada and the

northern United States east of the Mississippi. His key of genera is easily mastered, and fills but two pages. It is based entirely upon the leaves, their kind, arrangement, and margin. Given a stem with two or more leaves upon it, but a moment is needed to refer it to a group of from one to six genera. The only exception to this rule is in the case of trees whose leaves are simple and alternate, with toothed margins. This group includes no less than nineteen genera, and for it a special key would have been desirable. The plates afford the most important feature of the book, for nearly every species described has a page of outline drawings to itself. One hundred and sixteen species are thus figured, and the few others mentioned are cultivated or uncommon species easily to be differentiated by the accompanying descriptions. Mr. Newhall's descriptions are clear and in the simplest possible language. A botanist will naturally turn to the difficult genus *Salix* as a *crux* of the author's treatment, and will, in this case, be a little disappointed, for he will find fully described only three native and three adventive species, together with three or four varieties. Gray's "Manual" gives twenty-one species and ten varieties. Many of these are shrubs, it is true; but in the case of the willows it is very difficult to distinguish between shrubby and arboreal forms, and the leaves alone offer little assistance. *Salix* is, of course, an exceptional genus, and is probably the only one in which Mr. Newhall's book will not be very helpful. The salicologists themselves find it hard enough to classify this genus, and an amateur is not to be blamed for lack of complete success in the effort. The *Conifera* and *Quercus* have special keys which ought to prevent any difficulty in the determination of their species. Bits of folk-lore, poetry, and non-technical description, scattered through this volume, make it almost readable, in addition to its usefulness for reference. It has a sufficient glossary and a capital index. A similar volume on "The Shrubs of Northeastern America" is promised for future publication.

NOTHING less than the heartiest welcome can be offered to Mr. George Edward Woodberry's "Studies in Letters and Life" (Houghton), for in the book is something more than promise. Perhaps it is not too much to say that no better literary work is being done in America to-day. In his life of Poe, in the "American Men of Letters" series, Mr. Woodberry showed his ability to do strong and thorough work. His recently-published volume of poems, "The North Shore Watch," together with these "Studies," assures us that literature is not yet quite extinct in America. This collection of essays, reprinted from the "Atlantic" and the "Nation," gives evidence of sound thought and keen insight. The writer's polish and the poet's touch are plainly to be seen. The criticism is full of life, grace, and common sense, and it is interesting to contrast the tone of this poet's prose with

that of Swinburne's. Here there is nothing of the wild exaggeration, the fervid rhetoric, that so frequently mar Swinburne's work. On the other hand, Mr. Woodberry has not the airy delicacy of Lowell at his best. Still, the suggestiveness is not wanting, and as far as clearness of vision and maturity of judgment are concerned, perhaps some persons might be found to say that this new speaker was as safe a guide as the elder poet. That is high praise, and it may be deserved. When we find such true appreciation of a poet's life and aims as we do in the paper on Shelley, such temperate yet unhindered criticism as in the paper on Byron, such clear and permanent truth-telling as in "Illustrations of Idealism," we are judging falsely if we do not assign the writer a high place. When, in addition, his powers are so varied that he writes in the same thoughtful way on Greek sculpture, on Darwin, on the Italian Renaissance, on Bunyan and Channing, we must ask ourselves how many American writers can do this. If it is our final judgment that Mr. Woodberry's criticism is as sound and good as any that we have had on this side of the Atlantic, we shall probably not be far from the truth. The very least we can say is that these "Studies" are thoroughly delightful.

A BRIEF, accurate, and interesting historical sketch of English lexicography from early in the seventeenth century to the present day, is the leading paper in Mr. R. O. Williams's "Our Dictionaries, and Other English Language Topics" (Holt.) Mr. Williams's remarks on our first dictionaries—"The New World of Words," "An English Expositour," "A Compleat Collection," are some of their titles—are agreeably instructive, and his comments on the dictionaries of to-day are admirable in tone and scholarly in spirit. Especially worthy of consideration are his objections to the Philological Society's "New English Dictionary." The accuracy of the definitions of scientific terms is questioned, and a doubt is cast on the possibility of verifying the quotations under Murray's present method. Another interesting chapter is on "Good English for Americans." The drift of this paper is sufficiently indicated, perhaps, by Mr. Williams's statement that in time we may expect Americans to speak American, Australians to speak Australian, etc.—English, as it now stands, being left to the inhabitants of Great Britain. The rest of the book is given up to an unprejudiced discussion of particular words. A very full index makes the volume an easy one to refer to.

THE title of "Our Mother Tongue" (Dodd), a new work by Theodore H. Mead, does not prepare us for the contents of the book itself, for the author has reference to our language as it sounds, not as it is written. The special subject of the book is the defective and monotonous qualities of American English as it appears to our ears. Mr. Mead's aim is to enable one to acquire, without a teacher,



a well-modulated voice that shall lay one emphasis on the right words properly pronounced. The two rules given are *observe* and *practice*. The author is right in thinking that it is necessary to arouse interest in the subject. No one can have failed to notice how much more variety, not to say richness, there is in the tones of an Englishman than in those of an American. There is room for improvement, and necessity for it if we wish to avoid the unpleasant, yet just, comments of foreigners on our manner of speech. As to whether this book will turn out to be the long-needed work, one must be permitted a doubt. Mr. Mead's attitude toward the subject is characterized by a great deal of common sense, and certainly the different exercises he recommends—exercises in breathing, for example,—must be highly beneficial. But is it practical to suppose that we are going to draw close distinctions in the pronunciation of *missal* and *missile*, *metal* and *mettle*, *cymbal* and *symbol*, even for the sake of the much needed variety of speech? The author is a purist in pronunciation, and the pronouncing vocabulary, which takes up 240 pages, is constructed accordingly.

"CITIZENESS BONAPARTE," the new volume in the "Famous Women of the French Court" series (Scribner), is, like its predecessors, a striking example of the skill of the author, Imbert de Saint-Amand, in the art of working up a mass of excerpts into a fairly continuous and readable narrative. It is only fair to add, in respect of these excerpts, that M. Saint-Amand conscientiously supplies the quotation marks in each case—a formality sometimes omitted. "Citizeness Bonaparte" treats of the period dating from Josephine's marriage to Napoleon in 1796, to the time when—after the victorious campaigns in Italy and Egypt—he was made First Consul, in 1800. As already remarked in our previous notices of this series, the author inclines to a rather sentimental view of his subject; and in the present volume this tendency finds full scope. The time-honored—and, it seems to us, not now very momentous—conundrums as to the exact length, breadth, and depth of Napoleon's love for his wife, and the exact length, breadth, and depth of his wife's love for him, are again debated *pro* and *con* with great accumen and marshalling of authorities, and abundant quotation of pyrotechnic epistles.

#### BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all books received by THE DIAL during the month of October, 1890.]

#### ILLUSTRATED GIFT BOOKS.

- A Mosaic.** By the Artists' Fund Society of Philadelphia. Edited by Harrison S. Morris. 22 Photogravures, with appropriate text. Imperial 8vo, pp. 135. Gilt edges. Boxed. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$7.50.
- Our Great Actors:** Portraits of Celebrated Actors in their Most Distinguished Roles, by Charles S. Abbe. Reproduced in Color. Boxed. Estes & Lauriat. \$5.00.
- Jane Eyre.** By Charlotte Brontë. With 48 Illustrations. 2 vols. 12mo, gilt top. Boxed. T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$5.

- The Song of Hiawatha.** By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. With Illustrations from Designs by Frederic Remington. 8vo, pp. 242. Uncut, gilt top. Boxed. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$6.00.
- Our Old Home.** By Nathaniel Hawthorne. Annotated with Passages from the Author's Note-Book, and Illustrated with Photogravures. 2 vols. 16mo. Gilt top, uncut. Boxed. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$4.00.
- Our New England.** Her Nature Described by Hamilton Wright Mabie, and Some of Her Familiar Scenes Illustrated. 12 Photogravures from Nature. Oblong 4to. Gilt edges. Boxed. Roberts Brothers. \$4.00.
- Urania.** By Camille Flammarion. Translated by Augusta Rice Stetson. Illustrated by De Bieler, and others. Large 8vo, pp. 314. Gilt top. Boxed. Estes & Lauriat. \$3.50.
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